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TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, TRANSFORMING LIVES
Southeast Conference UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
SOUTHEAST UCC Conference

August 15, 2016

## SECUCC Youth Reflect on National Youth Event

A number of youth from various congregations in the Southeast Conference attended the National Youth Event in Orlando in July. Three from Church of the Savior Knoxville have shared some of their journal entries with us. Read them on our website.

## From the Conference Office

### Jottings from June

Being at National Youth Event in Orlando the last week in July was a place of powerful hope for me. Being with over 3,000 young people, the adults who accompanied them, and some of their families as well as colleagues from the national settings of the UCC and Disciples of Christ and other Conference Ministers, reminded me, once again, how much I love and value what this particular Christian community offers to me and to the world.

I hope you read the article with excerpts from the journal of youth from Church of the Savior in Knoxville. They have captured the excitement, wonder, and appreciation for who we are as a church gathered. The theme, "Believe," from Hebrews 11:1 was a reminder to me that even as we are in transition, God will make all things possible as long as we are paying attention to God's desires for ministry in this conference and this region and this denomination. The translation we used for the event read, "Faith is the confidence that what we believe will actually happen."

### In This Issue

Youth Reflect on NYE
Jottings from June
Caring Community
Morality in Politics
Feedback on UCC Purpose, Mission and Vision
Stillspeaking 2.0 Toolkit
Refugee Awareness
AAWIM Conference
Retired Servants Retreat

### Coming Events

**Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday**
Mon, Sept 5, 2016

**Board of Directors Retreat**
Sep 9 & 10, 2016

**SEC Staff Meeting**
Thu, Sep 15, 2016
*Conference Office*

### Conference Staff

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As the Board of Directors meets for retreat on September 9 and 10 to begin to understand their role in the life and ministry of this Conference, we will begin to shape what we believe will happen in this ministry. I am excited to work with these committed and experienced leaders as they work toward a 2017 balanced budget and calling an interim conference minister.

The work I intend to do in the last few months of my designated term will provide for a solid administrative foundation for the entry of the interim minister when that person is called. The treasurer and accountant are working to establish a separate investment account for the donor designated funds. I am pleased to report that many more churches are making quarterly contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission which has helped to stabilize cash flow and operations. Thank you so much for your attention and contribution to this critical need in our operations.

The Commission on Ministry met in July and completed a restructuring of its work. There are now three teams that will work with all aspects of church and ministry. Watch for more information as they move into their new structure. Clergy should anticipate receiving an annual information review form and attention to specialized ministers establishing a four way covenant. Our accountability to pastors and churches is only as effective as the covenants and relationships we honor with one another.

We will keep you informed about changes in Conference life as the Board does its work. Help us believe with your prayers and questions.

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2016. Each month, we will publish a weekly list for the month and post them weekly on our Facebook page. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

- Click here to download the entire 2016 prayer list

Highlights:

- We pray for all students and teachers as school for all ages from pre-K to post-graduate commences.

Churches in Transition:

Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain Georgia; Church of the Savior, Alpharetta Georgia; Pensacola UCC, Pensacola Florida; Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga Tennessee; Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Beloved Community, Birmingham Alabama; First United Church, Belvidere Tennessee.

## News from the United Church of Christ

### Faith Leaders Call for Morality in Politics

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**Connect with Us!**

Faith leaders are crossing denominational, racial and social lines to come together on behalf of the marginalized, calling on nominees for national political positions and on both major political parties to embrace a moral agenda that champions justice and equality instead of fear and rhetoric. The Higher Ground Moral Declaration calls on the entire American political system to rise above "hatred, fear, left-and-right politics, in order to reach our highest values of love and justice," says William Barber, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) pastor. Read more...

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## Gathering Feedback on the UCC Purpose, Mission, and Vision

UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer and the UCC Board of Directors invites UCC members to comment on proposed Purpose, Vision, and Mission statements for the denomination. Input from individuals and groups is being sought through August 22 in an online survey that should take about twenty minutes to complete.Results of the survey will help the Board of Directors shape the future mission and ministry of the national setting. Complete the survey at www.research.net/r/UCCPurposeMission.

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## Stillspeaking 2.0 Toolkit

A toolkit to help churches create an online presence is available for download at ucc.org/stillspeaking_toolkit. The kit includes directions and suggestions for social media; graphics for social media, print, and other uses; help with creating or upgrading church websites and Facebook pages; updated branding guidelines; and a list of inexpensive ways to increase profile views and reader interest from local churches in their communities.

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## Help Build Awareness about Refugees

"Refugees are no different than us. We all want to live without fear." You can help build this awareness. Church World Service offers ideas on welcoming a refugee into your community. You can help a refugee right away, from gathering supplies to showing them around their new city. When you help ease a refugee's transition into our country, you not only aid someone in need-you also serve your community. Your generosity can help change a life. Learn more online:
http://www.embracerefugees.org/
http://cwsglobal.org/get-involved/welcome-a-refugee/
http://www.ucc.org/refugee_accompaniment_july_2016

# Training and Retreat Opportunities

## Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Church Leaders, Part 2 is Aug 20 in Macon, GA

The Southeast Conference, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ ) in Georgia, are pleased to offer two Healthy Boundaries training sessions for clergy and church leaders. The second of the two classes will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 in Macon, Georgia. **Healthy Boundaries 201 - Beyond Basics and Into Internet Technology** is an advanced discussion of healthy boundaries for clergy and church leaders, designed for those who have completed Healthy Boundaries 101. Participants will review boundaries, power,

vulnerability, and self-care; significant time will be devoted to internet technology and social media.
Learn more on our website.

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## African American Women in Ministry Conference is Oct 13-15

Registration is now open for African American Women in Ministry Conference to be held at Franklinton Center in North Carolina October 13-15. Apply as early as possible if you need scholarship assistance. Rev. Charmaine Penn Johnson serving Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta is one of the co-chairs of the conference. Come: let us find hope For Such a Time as This.
**Learn more**.

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## 6th Annual Retired Servants Conference/ Retreat is Oct 3-5

You are invited to attend the Sixth Annual Retired UCC Servants Conference/Retreat that will be held Monday dinner through Wednesday morning on October 3-5, 2016. This event is being planned for Retired UCC Servants of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the UCC. It is being held at Blowing Rock Conference Center in Blowing Rock, NC amid the beauty of fall coming to the NC mountains!
Click here to view all the information on our website.